

....of the O. T. and without the Book of Daniel, there would be certain sections of Rev. which could not be interpreted. One must know the Book of Daniel, in order to deal with some of the great mysteries of the Book of Rev.

Chap. 1: we are introduced to four great characters. Four Hebrews or four Jews. They were brought over to Babylon in 605 B.C. They came over with Hebrew names: Daniel, Azariah, Hananiah and Michael. But when they get over into Babylon, these pagans give them pagan names. So Daniel becomes Belteshazzar; the others become Chadrach, Meshack and Abednego. So they change their names.

They give them the best pagan education in the world - these four people; these four Jews that have been taken into captivity. They don't protest. Why? Because there's nothing in the Word of God that says that you can't have your name changed. Or that you can't have a pagan education. But in V. 8 of Daniel 1, they rebell. King says you are going to eat my meat and drink my liquor. The four say 'no, we won't go any ~~farther~~ further'. Why?

Because it was not Kosher; it was against the diet laws of the Jews but also to eat the Kings meat and to drink his liquor, which had been offered to idols, would be the same as bowing to idols and would, therefore, break the First and Second commandments. They, therefore, stood on the Word of the Lord and they said 'let us eat pulse, which is vegetables or fruits and nuts. Let us do it for ten days and see if we're not stronger than our peers who live on your diet.

Sure enough they did and after ten days, they were ten times stronger and they got a promotion. It's a marvelous story in Ch. 1.

Chap. 2: we're gonna show you this on the board in a few moments - in Chap. 2, Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled Babylon for 43 yrs., has a mysterious dream. He's baffled by it. Calls in the soothsayers of the occult people and they simply cannot - they CANNOT decipher the dream. Then Daniel, who's always cool, he comes in at the right moment. He interprets it.

It's a tremendous statute of a man. It's a collosus - tremendous in size. It is a representation of the major Gentile nation from Babylon until the last Gentile Kingdom, which will be the Kingdom of the antichrist. When we show the statute, we'll point out the various nations.

Chap. 3: We have the marvelous story of what I call 'The Three Asbestor Boys' - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - being thrown in the fiery furnace and J. coming, in a special manifestation, and delivering them.

Chap. 4: Nebuchadnezzar, because of his tremendous pride and because he sins against the Light of God, is turned into an animal. This mighty King. The mightiest King in the world. I say it's the same as if Pres. Reagon was staked out on the Whitehouse lawn, eating grass. He reverted back or was turned into a cow. He thought. And he ate grass and lived out with the animals, and his hair and his fingers grew until he became a raving maniac for seven years.

But at the end, he is restored and he gives every evidence of being a believer in the true and living God. Most conservative, evangelical, Bible scholars believe he was truly saved and will be in Heaven when we get there. And we can ask him all about the fiery furnace. Now I don't know whether this is true or not; he's a type of antichrist, as we're gonna see, in a few moments. Because he set up this image, with six in it, which corresponds to

the image of antichrist in Rev. 13. It's an amazing story. All of it is so intriguing.

Chap. 5: we have the mysterious handwriting ~~xxx~~ on the wall at the drunken feast of Belshazzar and ten thousand of his officials. While they're sitting there and ~~thxxx~~ they're drinking, the wine out of the sacred vessels, which have been brought from the Temple in Jerusalem (they were ~~xxx~~ brought in 605 B.C.) but they were never abused. Nebuchadnezzar brought them. Here his grandson, in a drunken stupor, orders the sacred vessels, taken from the Temple, be brought to this drunken feast.

They drank their liquor and praised their heathen gods. Here's one of the greatest ~~xxxx~~ principles in all the Scrip. You who were here when we went over it, point by point. What parents do in moderation, children will always do in excess. Nebu. did not dare use those sacred vessels to drink liquor out of and to desecrate. But his grandson did.

What parents do in moderation, children will do in excess. Let me tell you this: your attitude toward the church will determine exactly what your children will do. I have seen it all my life. If you begin to miss services in the church and you just come on Sun. morning and your children won't come to church at all. If you don't come on Sun nights, or you don't come on Wednesday nights, your children will take that to an extreme, every time. EVERY TIME! It's just that way.

I find this in my staff, that the youthful men on the staff sometimes will get into an excess that I never intended <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ something I said and something I practiced. There's a tendency of youth to take to an extreme. We see these principles but we can't go any further into this.

Now I want us to look at some of these great Truths of Ch. 1 and following about the Book of Daniel. This is in the way of introduction - general information.

Daniel was written by Daniel, the prophet, about 535 B.C. 535 yrs. before Christ or about 2500 years ago. The theme of the Book is 'He's got the whole world in His hands'. It's one of the greatest faith builders that I have ever seen - the Book of Daniel. When you believe the Book of Daniel, you will not worry about anything. You will see that GOD is in control.

Even of the pagans. There are two sections in the Book: Ch.

Ch. 1 - 6 : deal basically, with Daniel. Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego, to some extent. But then in

Ch. 7 to 12: this is the Prophetic message. We'll be in that in just a little while. Matter of fact, in two weeks.

Daniel is written in two languages. You would think it was all written in Hebrew, as most of the O.T. is. But Chap. 2, beginning at V. 4 and going to Chap. 7 to V. 28, is written in Aramaic. Aramaic was the official language of Babylong. It's the same language as Syriac, if you're reading the commentaries. The rest of it is in Hebrew.

That which is written in Hebrew is written to the Jews. - That which is written in Aramaic is written to Gentiles. Isn't that logical?

Then, number 5, Daniel is a panarama (is that word too big for you?) it's a panarama or you might say ' a preview, of world history from 605 B.C. to the Second coming of Christ. In the 2nd Chap., we see the final kingdom at

the end of the ages being destroyed by the great stone. Its' an amazing thing ~~and~~ an AMAZING thing. ANYbody who loves the Lord and anybody who wants to know the Bible needs to study Daniel. It is so crucial.

Eight proofs Daniel is the Word of God:

I. Ezekiel 28:3: Ezek. was a contemporary of Daniel. In his prophecy (also the 14th chap and Chap. 28) he speaks of Daniel as being a true historical character. The reason I mention this is that liberal scholars say Daniel was not a true historical character at all. But that he was a sudo-writer in the Second Century looking BACK upon these things, claiming he was a prophet; that Daniel NEVER existed. You say 'is this taught?' It's taught all over the world.

It's taught in the major \_\_\_\_\_ Seminaries in America. Taught at Yale Harvard, Chicago, taught at at Duke, taught in the intellectual world that Daniel was really not a historical character at all. That this is a forgery. Well, of course, in my opinion, this is very, very false, but many a boy goes to Seminary and that is what he's taught.

## II. IT'S IN THE HEBREW BIBLE.

The Hebrew Bible was finished by 400 B.C. To be accepted in the Hebrew Bible, by the Jews, is proof enough for me. That it's Scrip. and the Word of God.

## III- THE <sup>T</sup>SEPUAGINT!

Now some of these words may be heavy for you. The Sep<sup>T</sup>uagint was the Greek translation of the O.T. Scrip., which was completed by 275 B.C. and you find the Book of Daniel. The critics say it was written about 135 B.C.

and yet it's in the Sep<sup>T</sup>uagint, which was finished by 275 B.C. You see how foolish that is. I've never understood how liberal critis could be so inconsistent and deny the evidence. It's in the Sep<sup>T</sup>uagint.

#### IV. FOUND IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS.

Which is a ~~dis~~ discovery that goes back B.C. - don't know how many hundreds of yrs. but to appear in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Daniel had to be written hundreds of years before Christ.

#### V. CHRIST AFFIRMED IT.

He calls Daniel 'the prophet' in Matt. 24:15. Also Mark 13:14 He calls him Daniel 'hoprophatas' Daniel, THE Prophet. Jesus believed Daniel was a prophet.

#### VI. PAUL AFFIRMED IT.

Paul makes various references that makes us know he was familiar with Daniel and he's making reference to the Book of Daniel. *2 thes 4:17*

#### VII. FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECIES.

Prophecies have already been fulfilled in the Book of Daniel: the collapse of all these Gentile nations - they've already taken place.

#### VIII. IT FITS LIKE A GLOVE INTO REVELATION.

These are the proofs. Please forgive us if we're going fast; we've got a long journey to cover.

Now the name of the four asbestos boys - really there were only three cast in the fiery furnace but I'm including Daniel in here. Here's one of the most interesting in the Book of Daniel. You remember there's Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. This is their Hebrew name; see it? Daniel - that's the Hebrew word - 'God is My Judge'. When they got over to Babylon, they gave Daniel a pagan name - Belteshazzar, which means 'Baal shall protect you'. Baal is a pagan god. See?

Hananiah: 'Jehovah is Gracious'. Changed to Shadrach, which is based upon Marduke, which is the great king of the Babylonians - I ~~mean~~ mean the great god of the Babylonians.

Mishael- 'who is like God' - Meshach - 'who is like Dckoo' that's a pagan god.

Azariah - 'Jehovah has helped' to Abednego 'servant of Nebo' who was a Babylonian.

Now this was not circled but let me show you something. You see N. 1. Daniel, you see #3. Mishael, you see the 'el'? That is the Hebrew word for Eloheim or the great word for God. Look at #2. iah - Hananiah- see? Look at #4. at Azariah - at the 'iah' -you know what that is? That is Jehovah. So you see, Eloheim is written in their Hebrew names and Jehovah is written in their Hebrew names, but they're paganized.

I think it's very, very interesting and that's the reason I share this with you. Of course, in the first chap., we went into all this, in detail, as we'll see, in a few moments. We ~~expounded~~ <sup>expound</sup> everything when we get in a verse by verse study.

Six worldly reasons that Daniel should not have eaten the meat or drunk the liquor:

1. HE WAS ONLY A KID. He was only about 15 or 16 yrs. old. One of the most amazing committments in ~~world history~~ all of history.

2. HE WAS FAR AWAY FROM HOME. Why not?

3. A GOOD WAY TO GET ADVANCEMENT.

4. FEAR OF EXECUTION. If he didn't eat the meat, might be executed. Real possibility.

5. GOOD EATING AND DRINKING. Man, to eat the royal meno. To feast on caviar and fillet mignon and crab legs. They just took ordinary food.

6. GOD HAD LET HIM DOWN. He could have rationalized that God had let him down.

Two Godly reasons he should not have eaten the meat, I've already told you about them: against the Kosher laws and also a violation of the First and Second commandments. He's have been guilty of idolatry and that's all the reason that they needed. Is they had the Word of the Lord and that's all we need, friends. When Gods Word has said something, we ought not to argue and we ought not to do it, no matter how unpopular and no matter what the cost is.

All right, ~~the next~~ in the second chap., Nebuchadnezzar has the dream of the collosial man. See him up there? See that man? See that super man? You have in that statute the Gentile nations. The primary Gentile nations, until the last one. You see the head? That's Babylon. It fell in 539 as a matter of fact. We saw that in last weeks lesson, in Chap. 5. It passed on <sup>to</sup> the

Medes-Persians - that's the breast and the arms. If you read Chap. 2, that's silver and the head is gold. Then Greece - all of this is historic. The Medo-Persian kingdom continued from 539 to 330 and 330 the Greek Empire came in and lasted ~~xxx~~ to 146. That's the stomach and the thigh. That's the stomach and the thigh there - the great Greek Empire. Rome conquered it in 146 B.C.

Then the Gentile power passed to Rome. 'Well,' you say 'why weren't there some other nations?' Because everything has come out of Rome. We came out of Rome. England came out of Rome. France came out of Rome. The last Gentile world empire will come out of the reconstituted Roman Empire - don't know where it shows the toes - no, those toes should be shown there. Ten toes, which are represented as ten horns in Chap. 7. Also in the Book of Rev. Those ten horns will be the ten kingdoms of the kingdom of antichrist.

This raises some real wuestions in our mind of some history that's taking place before our very eyes and it's hard to dismiss. But look here at these dates; you who are interested in ~~xxx~~ history. I hope you're interested because if you want to be educated and you want to know what reality is, learn history. It's the greatest teacher in this world, next to the Bible.

So you have this here, Babylon - I've already give it to you: 605 to 539 B.C. It lasted less than a hundred years. This strutting king and this ~~xx~~ mighty Empire is buried in the dust. There's the Medeo-Persian Empire, 539 to 330. There is the brilliant Greeks civilization: 330 to 146 B.C. Just think about it. We cannot conceive of a civilization as brilliant as Greece. I stood on the acropolis, looked at the pantheon, the most perfect building ever built - built by Paracles. It's just in ruins today.

Greece long since has gone down the drain. Down the drain! The Bible says God brings a nation up and puts it down.

Then Rome. In 146 - that's when we would date its beginning and in the West, it lasted about 500 yrs. 476 A.C. - Rome fell. Then it continued in the East until 1453, when the Turks captured Constantinople.

Now, throughout history, and this is very, very interesting,,, you see, if you know the Bible and you study history, you are just excited beyond words. Oh, if I had known the Bible when I was studying history, in Wake-forest University and in Duke Univ., I loved it, but I wasn't able to in-~~terpret~~ terpret it. I saw the value of dates and I learned these things and I had teachers that just put my nose to the grindstone.

Man, I sweated blood. But I didn't know the Bible. Oh, if I had known the Bible when I ~~was~~ was studying secular history. I say to any of you who are Xtns, if you're attending the Univ., listen, know your Bible and study that history.

But look at the reconstituted Roman Empire. We cannot dismiss the European Common Market. It was organized in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome. That's interesting. By the Treaty of Rome. Notice, we believe the fifth Gentile Empire will be reconstituted out of the old Roman Empire and the Common Market was formulated in the City of Rome. Great Britian entered it in 1971. That was tremendously significant. When they did, they ~~said~~ said 'this is the greatest unity that's come to Europe, since the 'Roman Empire.

In 1975, they formed a Parliament. That is, it became a political entity; not just an economic entity. It was first an economic organization but it

is political. In 1975, they began to issue uniform passports and I take that to be that the ten nations, which comprise it, that there's an interchange there in uniformity of passports. Passports in England, passports in France and I haven't used them, but I read this and I believe it's true.

Now throughout History, there have been aborted efforts to reconstruct the Roman Empire - or the Holy Roman Empire - Charlemain undertook it in 800 A.D. Napoleon undertook it in the latter part of the 18th and beginning of the 19th Century - absolutely failed. Kaiser Wilhelm had this as an objective evidently. Hitler certainly did. Mussoleni did and Stalin did. But this has never been accomplished. And it will NEVER be accomplished. NEVER!

Just like nuclear war is not going to destroy everybody on this earth, if the Bible's true. There's gonna be people living here when J. comes. Nuclear war is not gonna blot everybody off the face of the globe. I'm not saying we won't have a nuclear war for I'm concerned. I really am. But everyone is not gonna be blotted out by nuclear war. If the Bible is true and the Bible IS true.

ch. 4

Now in the 4th Chap. we have Nebuchadnezzar being turned into an animal.

I just put this up here for what interest it might be to you. We generally speak of this as 'lycanthropy' ~~wixk~~ which, roughly speaking, means 'a person being turned into an animal'. But Lycanthropy is really to be turned into a wolf. The Latin for wolf is 'lycuos' and you join that with the word for man 'anthropos' and you have lycanthropy. But if you want to be technical about it, Nebu. was really afflicted with 'boanthropy'.

See #2? Because the Latin word for cow is 'bos' plus anthropos and that becomes 'boanthropy'. Words are just tremendously intriguing. There's

another thing if you want an education. Learn words! Words are tremendously instructive and I say this to student: learn words. Learn vocabulary. Learn where words come from. Study Latin; study Greek; study language - that is a real insight, when you know it.

Now I put down the third category because I read a man though he was a Pheasant and so he just left his home; he slept in a tree for years. Well, the Latin word for 'bird' is 'aves' plus 'anthropos' and that would be 'aveanthropy'. See? All right, I won't charge you for that - I just threw that in there, you know, I thought you might be interested in this.

In the case Nebu. the great sin was pride and there's a lecture - a whole lecture on this - you know ~~where~~ where pride began - the roots of pride? It began with satan. It began with the devil. As a matter of fact, pride is what made the devil the devil. There was no devil before pride. He was Lucifer. He was the chief angel of Heaven and I'm convinced he guarded JC in Glory, from Eternity.

Until he said 'I'm too smart and I'm too attractive'.... he was beautiful! You who love music, when he spoke, he sounded like a pipe organ. I've ~~xxx~~ never read anything like the description of satan, In Ezekiel 14. Isa. 28. It's amazing! He was Lucifer at one time. The shining one. But he became the devil when he said 'I know too much. I'm gonna be on a level with God'. That's where it began - the reach of pride! It has reached into every life. Here is the core of original sin.

This was Eve's great sin. Oh, it was not just the matter of eating an apple in the garden. You know what her sin was? She enthroned herself. The devil didn't say to Eve 'be ungodly'. The devil said 'be Godly, Eve. Eat of this

fruit and you'll be like God.' Here's the dilemma of man today. Here's my dilemma; here's your dilemma. We want to rule on the throne of our hearts. Here's our sins. Here's the root sin. This is the reason we have to be saved. We have to be saved from ourselves.

Jes. must be Lord. Is He your Lord tonight? That's the answer to it, in #4.- Redemption from Pride. The revelation of pride is the most subtle thing in the world. It often comes in the form of humility. An inferiority complex is often 'extravagant pride'. Some of the most prideful people in this world appear to be the most humble. It's so subtle, it clings to us.

Unless we stay close to Jes. and we die at the cross, Pride devours us.

Now Timeless Truths from Dan. 4 - I promised an encore and I'm not gonna disappoint you any more than I can.

#### TIMELESS TRUTHS FROM DANIEL 4:

##### 1. ROOTS OF ALL SIN IS PRIDE.

2. PRIDE PRODUCES INSANITY. If it goes far enough, it produces insanity-. Chuck Colson stood right here in 1976 and said 'I was a mad man; a crazy man in Washington, because of 'hubris' which is the Latin word for 'pride'. He talks about that in the New Birth. The book on the New Birth, he talks about hubris, or pride.

##### 3. PRIDE IS DISASTEROUS BECAUSE IT'S A SUBTLE FORM OF IDOLATRY.

Pride is worshipping 'Self'. It's worshipping #1. That's the reason it's so serious. God warns before He judges - always! Nation and Kings (He warned Nebu. before He turned him into a cow or a psychological state, in which he thought he was a cow.

4. THE WORDS OF SATANS SINNERS ACCURATELY RECORDED IN THE BIBLE.

Well, the reason that's in there is Daniel 4, we have the word of Nebu. Mostly, it's his testimony. It's not the Word of God; it's the word of Nebu. Some say 'well, that means the Bible is not the Word of God'. When we say 'the Bible is the Word of God! An infallible record'. We mean it is accurate. The devil speaks in the Bible. Man speaks in the Bible. A donkey speaks in the Bible. But it's all an accurate record. That's the reason we put this in there.

5. Look up Job 33: 14-17 and you'll see that God describes in these verses EXACTLY how He worked with Nebu.

6. IS A QUOTE FROM ISA. 42: 8 and this of course relates to 4 because Nebu. took the glory of God. He took credit for Babylon and everything and God says 'My Glory I will not give to another'.

7. ДРАПОБ (?) COULD BE SAVED. That's the present ruler of Russia. Nebu. was saved. No one is beyond the grace of God. We ought to pray he might be saved. God's patience DOES run out. God will wait, sometimes, for hundreds of yrs. but He will eventually, apply His Truths and His judgments. Here are the

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

I thought you might be interested in them. Billy Graham has written a book on them. These sins were developed in the middle ages. I think you might be interested in looking at them:

1. PRIDE. This is what Prov. 6:16 says ~~it~~ it lists seven sins, but the first one is Pride. They listed them this way in the middle ages.

Look at #7 - is sloth really a sin? One of the worst. I'm convinced of it. Laziness. Laziness is a sin. Unless we recognize it as a sin, if we say it's a weakness or something passed down by our parents, it's gonna conquer us. I don't know of anything that is defeating more people than pure, plain old laziness! I was amazed at Gary Holder and I didn't talk to him a minute, praying in his prayer that God would forgive some of our S.S. teachers for laziness.

Just keeps people ~~for~~<sup>from</sup> doing the work of God. Just keeps them from getting out of bed to pray. Read the Bible. Do what God's called them to do. It's a terrible sin. Well, the seven deadly sins: in Daniel 5, if you want an outline, here's a beautiful outline of Dan. 5 and you can look at it here a few moments:

1. FEAST OF BELSHAZZAR.
2. FOLLY OF BELSHAZZAR.
3. FINGER OF GOD.
4. FEAR OF BELSHAZZAR.
5. FAME OF DANIEL.
6. FAITHFULNESS OF DANIEL.
7. FALL OF BABYLON.

If you teach and you use a blackboard; people do this differently; but if you teach and use a blackboard, I find that illiteration - intelligent illiteration - is valuable. I would not just force it. Don't be foolish in illiteration, but people need a simple outline to tie things around. I use illiteration all the time in my preaching and I do that because the conviction I have that God wants me to simplify the message.

People, universally, express appreciation for that. All right, now I want

us to expand - expound - Dan. 3 and try to deal with it as best we can, in the time we have. We'll ~~xx~~ have to move real, real quickly.

*Dan. 3* —

V. 1(read) 'threescore cubits' that would be sixty cubits (notice the six?) Six is the number of man; 666 is the number of antichrist, in Rev. 13. Nebu. is first type of antichrist. He set it up in the Plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon and this ~~ix~~ was in a valley South of the city of Babylon.

V.2(read) he built this tremendous image, really it was 90 feet high(sixty cubits) or 90 feet high. He then called all the officials of the Empire in to the Plain of Dura and said 'bow down before this image'. This was an image, we believe, ~~ix~~ of himself. He got his idea from the statute we just saw in Chap. 2. Babylon was to be the head of that statute/<sup>and be</sup>of gold. So it was to himself, to diefy himself. It was also to unify the nation around one religion and one great symbol.

This would correspond to our Constitution, correspond to English crown. He clls them all together there and tells them to bow down.

V. 3(read) says this crowd of people gathered there, according to his commandment and look at the latter part of the verse 'and they stood before the image Nebu. had set up'. And they're dressed in their Sunday best. They are wearing their Hicky-Freeman suits. They're dressed in colors, evidently, according to the Provinces from which they come.

V. 4(read) 'then an herald' and that's the hirling preacher. Here's a false preacher. V.5(read)- 'at what time' means 'at the precise moment'. This was the royal orchastra listed. V. 6(read) now just over from this

statue was a fiery furnace and Nebu. said 'you're standing here. We're gonna ask you to bow when the royal orchestra begins to play. If you don't, we'll put you in the fire.' That's what we have here.

V. 7(read) it says "ALL" the people fell down. They were guilty of outright idolatry. But there were three who did not bow. That must have been a strange sight. Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego are in that crowd and they don't bow. I can just imagine the people behind saying 'bow, bow! Don't you know you're gonna be thrown in the fiery furnace?' There're at least seventy five Judeans, we believe, and there are about seventy other Judeans there and they were all bowing.

You say 'where is Daniel?' Not there. We don't know where he is. Is he sick? Prime Minister? I think God had him away so these three young men could stand on their own. They'd depended on Daniel, up to this point.

V. 8(read) 'at that time' now in the Hebrew it should be translated like this 'because of this' or that is 'because of their refusal to bow down'.. Chaldeans - now this was the Babylonians. 'Accused' literally 'cut to pieces'. See the Babylonians against the Jews? Antisemitism is not new. They came to these Jews ready to cut them to pieces.

V. 9(read) 'O king, live forever' is a familiar way of addressing royalty.

V. 10(read) & 11 & 12 - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ now these were the Babylonians, giving their message to the king. 'Hast set' or appointed. 'Mr. king, we want you to know these men that you gave these big jobs to, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego - THESE men, oh king; these, your appointees... see the jealousy? See the antisemitism? These men, O king; and they charged them with

three sins:

1. They have not regarded thee. Which was a lie. They always regarded the king, as any Godly man will do. I don't care who he is; if he's a preacher and does not regard authority, he's not Godly. A Godly person will recognize authority. That's one of the supreme signs of Godliness. A Godly ~~wix~~ person will honor authority. A child that will not honor his parent is ungodly. Don't care who he is.

A staff member that will not honor a pastor is ungodly. I don't care who he is. The Bible teaches it. These men were Godly and they never, one time, never one time, disregarded the king. They were very polite and they realized they were under his authority.

2. THEY SERVED NOT THY GODS. True. They could not bow down before those pagan gods.

3. NOR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE WHICH THOU HAST SET UP. Right!

V. 13(read) Negu. is MAD now. V. 14(read) 'is it true' in other words 'I can't believe it. YOU mean you didn't bow? You three men I gave these jobs to? You three men I'm training to be a part of my ~~MA~~ brain thrust? I just don't believe it. This must be a mistake.' Course I'm reading between the lines, but that's what he's saying.

V. 15(read) he says 'I'm gonna give you another chance!! There's bound to be something wrong here. I know you want to bow.' Evidently they could look right into the mouth of that thing. Last part of V.15: now Nebu. knew something of the power of Jehovah but he didn't believe there was any God that could intervene to save those people from his authority. He had

the whole Babylonian army in his hands.

V. 16(read) we don't deny the charge at all. We're guilty. We did not bow before your idol.

V. 17(read) 'if it be so' that is, if we're thrown in.....Did they know how the deliverance would be? No. There is an intimation here, I believe, of life beyond death for the believer. I believe they're saying 'if we're thrown in there and burned to a cinder, we'll still be alright. Our God will take care of us. We'll be in Heaven, but we won't be in your hands, Nebu. We're not even worried about that'.

But V. 18 is the jewel of all of Daniel (read) 'but if not'..... God CAN deliver us but He may not deliver us. This is what I call a 'Faith that demands no miracle'. You see, True faith believes in miracles - oh yes, if you have a true faith, you believe in miracles because you believe in God. But true faith does not require a miracle. If we have to have a miracle, we're not trusting in Jes., we're trusting in what JEs. can DO. We've converted Jes. into an aspirin tablet.

We've converted Him into something materialistic rather than the True and Living God who ~~make~~ may not work and act like we want Him to work and act on every occasion and may not answer our prayers, exactly like we have prayed them. Now here's one of the most important things for you to understand, in the Word of God, and out of the Book of Daniel.

Now, today, we have all kinds of teaching going on in the world. We have a type of teaching that says 'you don't ever have to be sick at all - NEVER'. And if you're sick, it's because you don't have faith. And if you don't

have two cadillacs in your garage, it's because you haven't prayed right or you don't have faith. Now, listen, that's dangerous preaching and teaching. God will bless us if we sow unto Him. He'll absolutely bless us and bless us materially. But He does it in His own way and we never, as finite man, can put ~~the~~ demands upon God and say 'God, You're got to give me a miracle and You've got to act in a certain way. If you don't do it, I'll lose my faith in you.'

Because God will not act like you want Him to act, on certain occasions. God heals of cancer. I've known some people He didn't heal. Who had just as much faith as people He did heal. If He heals you of cancer, He loves you but if He doesn't heal you of cancer, He loves you just as much as if He'd healed you. He's God. When you have that kind of faith, your faith is in Jes. - it's not in what He does for you.

Listen, when God called me into the ministry, I ~~find~~ signed an 'If Not' clause. If I had demanded of God that He act a certain way, I wouldn't have stayed in the ministry one year. I wouldn't have stayed in it two years. I would have already left the ministry. If you're a S.S. teacher; if you're a servant of God and you've put certain demands upon God, He's got to act a certain way and He's got to do certain miracles in your life, you gonna lose your faith because somewhere along the line, He's not gonna act like you think He ought to act.

This is not to diminish miracles and this is not to diminish the power of God to do wonderful things, but it is to bring us into Biblical faith so that when something happens to us that might look like it's bad, God is still God and Jes. is still to be loved and still to be trusted. Know the testimony to follow? The testimony of Job. Job 13:15 - his friends said 'listen,

God, if You take away everything from this man, Job, You take away the prosperity of his family and everything, this man won't serve You at all'. And God took away everything except his life. You know what Job said?

'Though He slay me, yet will I serve Him'. That's faith! I love God. I serve God for God. I do not do it for what I can get out of it. I do it because I love God. Here is true N. T. faith and you can build your life upon this. You cannot build it on other forms of faith.

V. 19(read) now Nebu. was mad in V. 13 but now - man, he REALLY is mad. He's filled with fury, fire and brimstone. So they kept pouring on charcoal, we believe, and gasoline or oil and opening the draft and they made the thing seven times hotter.

V. 20(read) this was his body guard, evidently. V.21(read)- see? Their Hickey-Freeman suits! Why were they bound? So they couldn't get away. Every security taken that they were gonna be burnt up alive.

V. 22(read) and 23: where's Nebu.? Right there in front of the furnace. For cruel satisfaction, waiting to see these three boys fried, like sausage.

V. 24(read) now why did he ask that? Because of V. 25(read) now they were bound, you remember but now Nebu. says 'I see 4 men loose...' He looks for three men - he sees four. He looked for three men bound - he sees four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire. He expects to see them sizzling, and they are not hurt at all. The fourth is like the Son of God. The Hebrew says 'the Son of the God'.

He knew the fourth ~~was~~ one was <sup>deity</sup> ~~divine~~ of some form. Now I can't say he knew

it was Jes. Who was he? In V. 28, He calls Him an angel and in the Aramaic that word means 'deity'. He's calling Him some kind of God. Who was He? I'm perfectly satisfied, friends, that was Jesus. That's what we call a 'theophaney' which is the appearance of Jesus in some form. He appeared in various forms: Gen. 18, as a man to Abraham. As \_\_\_\_\_ of Lord Hosts to Joshua in Josh. 5.

Jes.  
You see, ~~XXXXX~~ always HAS BEEN. This is one of those appearances and there He is in the midst of the fiery furnace, walking with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Isn't that wonderful?

What is the lesson? God has not promised we would not be in a fiery furnace. As a matter of fact, He's promised the fiery furnace. I -Pet. 4:12 (I call this the fiery furnace). That's what I call the sermon on I. Pet. 4:12. Have you been in the fiery furnace? If not, you will be, if you live long. Now some of our furnaces are hotter than the others, because we can take more heat. Some people can take more heat.

But God's people are going to be in fiery furnaces. Some of you are in a fiery furnace. God didn't say He would take us out of the fiery furnace. See what He did say - 'I will get right in there with you'. And that's where He is. Right there in the fire with them. Listen, when Jes. is with us, you don't need to worry. Are you worried? Don't worry. If you're a child of God, listen, Jes. is with you. Just believe it and confess it and ~~xxxxx~~ claim it in your life. Don't say anything negative.

Don't cast reflections upon Jes. He is suffering with you. He's there with you and there is just as much purpose in that fiery furnace as there was in the sunniest day of your life. One day, you'll understand. One day you'll

praise God.

V. 26(read) that was admitting complete defeat. Nebu. says 'come out, I've lost'. V. 27, we have all this crowd of unbelievers, this lost group of people, saw these men, which the fire had no power over.(read). There was not a smell of fire or smoke on them. Now I call them the three asbestos boys. Were they? Not really. They were not made of asbestos. They were just protected by God.

Primarily, as a witness to a lost world. And often, that's <sup>what</sup> ~~thats~~ the miracle is for. If you're a Xtn you don't have to have a miracle. If JC saved you, you don't have to have a miracle. The greatest miracle in the world is your salvation. I don't have to have a miracle. Oh, I like to have them and this Saturday, I had two wonderful answers to prayer, on my trip. WONDERFUL answers and it encouraged me. I can just praise the Lord and it just fired me up and I said 'God, thank you, thank you, for performing a miracle and ~~xxx~~ answering my prayer before my very eyes'.

But sometimes God doesn't do that. For me nor for you. The miracle was, primarily for these heathen. That's often what's the miracle is for - not for the child of God. We don't have to have the miracle. But often the lost man does. Just like a man told me - my brother in law - told me 'my brother was so hostile and stubborn against the Gospel but his wife was miraculously ~~xxx~~ healed and he was saved'. Saved! We see this in V. 27.

V. 28(read) ~~xxxxx~~ 'angel' that's deity. 'Trusted in Him' notice? 'Changed the kings word' that is, simply to say 'did not obey it'. 'Yielded their bodies' - isn't that marvelous??? Rom. 12:1 they had yielded their bodies a living sacrifice. They were willing to die for what they believed. That they would not serve or ~~worship~~ worship any God except their own.

In Chap. 4, he's evidently saved. Why was he saved? I think more than anything else, it was when he saw the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Listen, anybody who has any desire to be saved and when he really sees the power of God in a miracle like this, that individual will be saved. We need that. We need some miracles in the FBC. We need some healing miracles. We need financial miracles. We need miracles - miracles - that people who will not believe what I preach will have to see that God is God and rise up and be saved. And lost church members will move out of their false profession and come to the Lord and know that God is alive and God is real.

There is so much here. Well, V.29(read) he makes a decree. 'Amiss' or 'erronously' really. If they do, they'll be cut in pieces. Says 'now, you're just not gonna go around lying against this God, because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort'. That's a pretty high about <sup>THIS</sup> Jehovah. But you see, he ~~wasn't~~ didn't deny the existance of other gods. And he didn't forbid the people to worship the other gods. All he said was 'you're not going to tell lies on Jehovah'.

V. 30(read) well, I've go so many, many things here on Chap. 3. Let me just share just a few and then we've got to be going because the choir will want to come in and they don't like me when I stay up here too long. O.K.

#### SEVEN REASONS FOR BOWING

1. DANIEL WAS NOT PRESENT TO STRENGTHEN THEM.
2. HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT FOR NOT BOWING.
3. LOSS OF POSITIONS AND PROMOTIONS.
4. THE IDOL WAS NOTHING AND NO HARM TO BOW. (YOu see, they could

have reasoned that way).

5. EVERYBODY'S DOING IT. Have you ever heard that? Everybody WAS doing it except three.

6. BOWING ONLY FOR ONE TIME AND NOT FOR LONG.

7. MORE GOOD ACCOMPLISHED BY LIVING THAN BY DYING.

See? There was every reason in the world to bow. There's every reason in the world for you and me to compromist our faith and to deny Jes.

#### SIX REASONS FOR NOT BOWING

1. THE COMMANDMENTS - THE FIRST AND SECOND.

2. DARK SIN OF IDOLATRY.

3. LOVE AND FEAR OF YAHWAY OR JEHOVAH. (This was really why they didn't).

4. YAHWAY WAS ABLE TO DELIVER. They believed God would see them through. They didn't know but what they'd burn to a cinder, but they believed they would be with God. That's how strong their faith was.

5. WITNESS TO A LOST WORLD GREATLY ENHANCED.

6. ETERNAL LIFE. I've already mentioned that.

Now I want to mention the '11 Lessons for 20th Century Xtns' and all I can do is to read them. Listen to these:

①. TRUE FAITH DEMANDS NO MIRACLES. Don't forget this.

2. GOD IS WITH HIS PEOPLE IN THEIR FIERY FURNACE.

3. GOD PROMOTES HIS FAITHFUL.

4. IMAGE OF DANIEL CHAP.3 IS A TYPE OF THE IMAGE OF ANTICHRIST IN REV. 13. I think that'll be a giant computer. I'm convinced of that. I'm more convinced than I was when I ~~xx~~ taught Rev.

5. THREE ASBESTOS BOYS \_ TYPE OF ISRAEL WHO'LL BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION WHICH IS 144,000.

6. DEATH OF MIGHTY MEN IS A TYPE OF THE FINAL DOOM OF THE ANTICHRIST, THE ENEMIES OF ISRAEL.

7. TIMING AND TYPE OF TRIALS DIFFER WITH INDIVIDUALS. Daniel was not cast in the furnace, but the lions den awaited him. See? That's in the mystery of God. You may not be in a fiery furnace now, but you may be, in the future.

8. GODS PEOPLE CAN BE FAITHFUL WHEN THE WHOLE WHORLD'S AGAINST THEM. Some of you right here, I know of your faithfulness. When it was very, very hard with your company.

9. TRUE COMMITTMENT TO JESUS HAS AN "IF NOT" CLAUSE IN IT. You will not serve Jes. long unless it has an 'If Not' clause in it.

10. AVOID THE GREAT SIN OF II KINGS 17: 33. You know what that sin is? Says 'they fear the Lord and serve their own gods'. That's one of the most serious sins in the church of JC today. They feared the Lord - said 'oh, yes, I love Jes. I'm a Xtn' but they went right out and served their own god. That's the man who says 'Oh, yes, I love Jes. but I'm not going to, in any way, inconvenience myself to serve Him. I'll come to church when I want to. I'll follow the pastor if I want to. But I'll do exactly what

I want to. If I want to take off; if I want to spend my time in something else, I will do what I want to do. Oh yes, I love Jes. but I don't serve Him'

That's hypocrisy at its worst and we have the church full of that today.

Now here are the three asbestos boys: ① they would not bow. I'm gonna come back to that in a moment. ② They would not budge. They didn't give an inch. ③ They would not burn. They were not asbestos. God protected them. You know the only thing that burned? Was that rope or that thing that Nebu. wound their Hickey-Freeman suits. That's all that burned. You know the only thing that'll burn in the fiery furnace? Will be the things that bind us - be our sins and this world.

You'll come out of the fiery furnace purified every time. Fiery furnace won't hurt you. It'll just burn off those things. Sometimes it takes a man's pride; takes his foolishness away. Makes a man out of him so he can serve the Lord. ~~But they did~~

4. They did not bow to it. They didn't. I want to come back to 'They did not Bow'. What was the crime they charged them with? They didn't tell them they could not bow to Jehovah? Not one time. They just said 'you've got to bow before our god'. This is exactly what the world says to you and me today. The world doesn't say you can't belong to FBC, teach S.S. class, sing in the choir. What the world says to you is 'join the church, hold an office in the church, but come right out of the church and bow before our god!! Be like we are. Be with the crowd. Be with the jet-set. Be with the cocktail set. Go with the crowd. Talk the language of the crowd. Let your values be the values of the crowd. Go where they go.

Do what they do. Teach a S.S. class if you want to at the FBC' and that's

where the devil damns the ~~worship~~ work of God. And there's so much of this today. Here in the Lord, in the words - serving their own Gods. You know what the first commandment says ? 'Thou shalt ~~have~~ not have any other Gods before ME'. But what it means in the original: 'thou shalt not have another God in addition to the True and Living God'. There's where the problem is!

There's not one percent of the people in Ft. Smith who would deny the existence of God. It's so easy to say 'Jes. and Lord and PTL' but it's quite another matter for that to mean everything in our lives that He's Lord of our time and Lord of our money and Lord of our language and Lord of our wife and Lord of our children and Lord of our relations and Lord of all. The ~~world~~ world doesn't care for you claiming anything, if you'll bow before the gods. This was the issue in the early church.

The Roman Empire came to the ~~early~~ early Xtns and they said 'we're not asking you to renounce Jes. We're just asking you to say Caesar is Lord. And Polly Carp comes before the Judge, this great old Xtn., 85 yrs. old. The church said 'Mr. ~~XXXX~~ Polly Carp, we're not asking you to deny Jes. We're just asking you to confess the Emperor'. Polly Carp said 'I cannot do that. To confess the Emperor is to deny Jes.'

Mr.  
'But, ~~XXXX~~ Polly Carp, would you lose your life? We're not asking you to deny Jes. Confess the Emperor as God and as deity'. He said 'I cannot do that'. And they burned that 85 yr. old man in the flames. There's the issue today, in the world. That's the issue! That's how modern it is.

Will Jes. be Lord ~~xxxx~~ or will we just SAY He's Lord? Will we say He's Lord in the church but deny Him on the job and deny Him before the lost world? That's the issue we face in our world today. That's the reason Jes came that

we might make Him Lord and we can't be saved unless He's our Lord. There's no way in this world that we can be saved, unless Jes. is our Lord. That is what salvation is.

Next Sunday, we'll go in to Chap. 6 - the ~~great~~ great chap. of the lions den. God locking the jaws, giving the lockjaw to the lions. You be sure you're here.

Let's stand and pray.